

TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1949.

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TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Area | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,249 acres |
| Population | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13,850 |
| Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1947) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £97,260 |
| Sum represented by Penny Rate (year 1946-47) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £389 |

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—There has been no change in the conditions of the town, and there is still a grave need for more houses in the town.

VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|-------|
| Population | | ... | 13,850 | | |
| | | | M. | F. | Total |
| <u>Live Births</u> —Legitimate | .. | 96 | 117 | 213 | |
| Illegitimate | ... | 1 | 5 | 6 | |
| Total | ... | 97 | 122 | 219 | |
| <u>Still Births</u> —Legitimate | ... | 3 | 3 | 6 | |
| Illegitimate | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total | ... | 3 | 3 | 6 | |
| <u>Deaths (from all causes)</u> | ... | 83 | 107 | 190 | |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year : | | | | | |
| Legitimate | ... | 3 | 2 | 5 | |
| Illegitimate | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total | ... | 3 | 2 | 5 | |

Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|--------------------------|----------------|------|-------------------|
| years of age | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | Urban District | | England and Wales |
| Live Birth rate | 15·8 | per 1,000 of population. | Comparison | 16·7 | |
| Still Birth rate | 0·43 | per 1,000 of population | „ | 0·39 | |
| Crude Death rate : | | | | | |
| All Causes | 13·7 | per 1,000 of population. | „ | 11·7 | |
| Corrected Death rate 11·7 | | | | | |
| (Comparability Factor ·86) | | | | | |
| Infants under 1 year | 22·8 | per 1,000 live births. | „ | 32 | |
| Death Rate under 2 years | | | | | |
| from Diarrhoea, | | | | | |
| Enteritis, etc | 0 | per 1,000 live births. | „ | 3 | |

| Analysis of deaths from all causes. | | | | Male | Female | Total |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|-------|
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Other Forms of Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Syphilitic Diseases | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| Acute Infective Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Cancer of Mouth, Oesophagus (M) | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Cancer of Uterus (F) | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer of Stomach or Duodenum | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Cancer of Breast | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer of all other sites | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 13 | 17 |
| Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Intracranial Vascular Lesions | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 12 | 22 |
| Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | 26 | 39 | 65 |
| Other Diseases of the Circulatory System | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years of age | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Appendicitis | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Other Digestive Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Other Maternal Causes | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Premature Birth | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Congenital Malformations; Birth Injuries and | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Infantile Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Road Traffic Accidents | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Other Violent Causes | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| All other causes | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 10 | 19 |
| TOTALS | ... | ... | ... | 83 | 107 | 190 |

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—There has been no change in the water supply; the amount has been always sufficient and the quality excellent.

REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Water sample received on 26/8/49 at 3.30 p.m. from Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board workshop at Silver Street, Trowbridge.

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL COUNT. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours : NIL per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. COLI COUNTS at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours :

| Quantity of water tested. | Acid and gas from lactose. | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---|
| | at 37°C. | | | | | 44°C. | | | | |
| Five tubes of 10 m.l. water | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Five tubes of 1 m.l. water | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

As result of calculation made from above :

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C. : NIL.
- (2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C. : NIL.

Opinion. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

Date 29/8/49.

(Signed) J. G. SELWYN, *Pathologist.*

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—As before.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.—Early in the year the Surveyor and the Consulting Engineer visited the Ministry of Health with regard to the Council's application for loan sanction for the reconstruction scheme, following which the Ministry intimated they were prepared to approve the scheme with certain modifications. A revised scheme was then prepared by the Consulting Engineer.

In this connection an investigation was made of trade wastes discharging into the sewers, the sewage flow generally, and possible sources of surface water infiltration. Also, some analyses of the tank effluent and final effluent were made; these showed a tendency towards an increase in the strength of the sewage as compared with earlier results, but the final effluent was regarded as satisfactory.

Approval of the scheme under the Town and Country Planning Act was applied for and obtained.

SEWERAGE.—Apart from housing estate extensions, no new works were carried out.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| Age Group | Scarlet Fever | | Measles | | Acute Poliomyelitis | |
|------------|---------------|---|---------|----|---------------------|---|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 1 | — | 1 | 6 | 11 | — | — |
| 3 | — | 2 | 13 | 14 | 1 | — |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 13 | — | — |
| 10 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| 15 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| 25 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| TOTALS ... | 1 | 5 | 32 | 42 | 3 | — |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—continued.

| Age Group | Acute Pneumonia | | Cerebro Spinal Fever | | Erysipelas | |
|------------|-----------------|---|----------------------|---|------------|---|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| 45 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| 65 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | — |

HOUSING.

HOUSES PROVIDED AND FAMILIES RE-HOUSED during the year ended 31st December, 1949 :—

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|----|-------------|-------------|
| Traditional houses | ... | ... | 48 | 48 Families | 167 Persons |
| Permanent/non-traditional | ... | ... | 24 | 24 Families | 99 Persons |
| Changes of tenancy | ... | ... | 31 | 31 Families | 76 Persons |

MEAT INSPECTION.

The following table gives details of the number of animals slaughtered at the Government controlled slaughterhouses in the town, and the number found affected with Tuberculosis, or other diseases, and the respective percentages. A large amount of time has been devoted to meat inspection during the year :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED AT MINISTRY OF FOOD SLAUGHTERHOUSES, TROWBRIDGE, 1949.

| | | | Cattle excluding Cows. | Cows. | Calves. | Sheep and Lambs. | Pigs. |
|--|-----|-------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|
| Number killed | ... | ... | 991 | 1,265 | 5,063 | 3,512 | 115 |
| Number inspected | ... | ... | 991 | 1,265 | 5,063 | 3,512 | 116* |
| ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS | | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | ... | 3 | 6 | 27 | 12 | 12 | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | ... | 322 | 737 | 45 | 426 | 32 | |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis | ... | 32.795 p.c. | 58.735 p.c. | 1.422 p.c. | 12.471 p.c. | 37.931 p.c. | |

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|-------------|------------|--------|------------|--|
| Whole carcasses condemned | ... | 4 | 45 | 2 | 0 | 1 | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | ... | 137 | 557 | 14 | 0 | 3 | |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | ... | 14.228 p.c. | 47.588 p.c. | 0.316 p.c. | 0 p.c. | 3.448 p.c. | |

* Includes 1 carcase and organs of a casualty pig slaughtered and dressed at a farm, and sent into the slaughterhouse.

The total weight of Meat (including Tubercular Meat) condemned and destroyed as unfit for human food during the year was as follows :—

| Tons. | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|-------|-------|------|------|
| 49 | 2 | 1 | 26 |

and the total weight of other Foods condemned and destroyed amounted to :—

| | Tons. | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. | Ozs. |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| making a grand total of | 1 | 10 | 2 | 26 | 6 |
| | Tons. | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. | Ozs. |
| | 50 | 13 | 0 | 24 | 6 |

of Meat and other Foods found unfit for human consumption and destroyed during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The number of slaughtermen whose names appear on the Register is 15.

The provisions of the Act relating to the stunning of animals were made applicable to sheep and lambs by resolution of the Council passed on the 30th October, 1933.

DAIRIES AND DISTRIBUTORS OF MILK.

A Register is kept giving details of all persons carrying on the trade of distributors of milk in the district and of all premises used as dairies, not being dairy farms.

The inspection of cowsheds and farms where milk is produced was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as from 1st October, 1949.

SHOPS, STALLS AND PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

Periodic inspections have been made of shops and other places where food is prepared, and improvements have been effected in a number of cases.

RODENT CONTROL.

The soil sewers of the town have been treated twice during the year in accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The sewers were also test baited. The Rodent Operator has dealt with a large number of cases of rat and mice infestations during the year, including treatments of the refuse dumps, salvage dump, sewage works and civic restaurant.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

| Premises (1) | M/c line No. (2) | Number on Register (3) | Number of | | | M/c line No. (7) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Inspections (4) | Written notices (5) | Occupiers prosecuted (6) | |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 1 | 17 | 5 | — | — | 1 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 2 | 92 | 45 | 3 | — | 2 |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... | 3 | 3 | 2 | — | — | 3 |
| TOTAL | | 112 | 52 | 3 | — | |

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

| Particulars | M/c line No. | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted | M/c line No. |
|---|--------------------|---|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | | Found | Remedied | Referred | | | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | To H.M. Inspector (5) | By H.M. Inspector (6) | (7) | (8) |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | 4 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | 7 | — | — | — | — | — | 7 |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | 8 |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | | | | | |
| (a) insufficient | 9 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 9 |
| (b) unsuitable or defective | 10 | 8 | 5 | — | 7 | — | 10 |
| (c) not separate for sexes | 11 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 11 |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | 12 | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 12 |
| TOTAL | 60 | 15 | 11 | — | 8 | — | 60 |

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

